

SKATING WORLD

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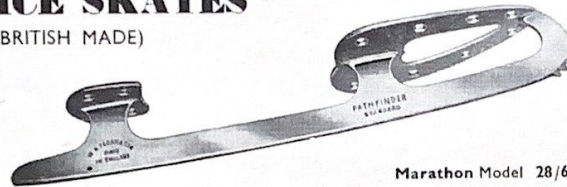


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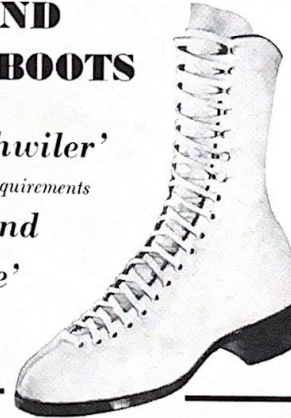
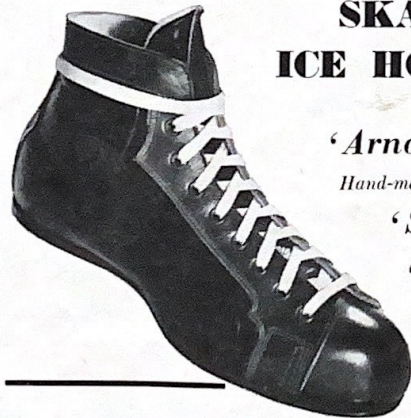
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Talking about Skating . . .

DELEGATES FROM Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland,

France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, USSR, and USA attended the 25th ISU Congress at Stresa, June 10th to 12th. Officers elected: *President*—H. J. Clarke, London; *Vice-Presidents*—Dr. J. Koch, Basel (Figure Skating), S. Laftman, Stockholm (Speed Skating); *Council*—G. Krog, Drammen, Norway and I. Anikanov, Moscow (Speed), M. Nicaise, Brussels and W. S. Powell, St. Louis (Figure); substitute members—Dr. I. Perucca, Milan and O. Blomquist, Helsinki (Speed), F. Kachler, Vienna and G. Torchon, Paris (Figure). Headquarters remain at Davos-Platz, with G. Hasler as Hon. Secretary. Committees: *Speed*—Dr. W. Lang, Zurich (Chairman), H. Halvorsen, Oslo and V. Kapitonov, Moscow; *Figures*—W. Rittberger, Krefeld (Chairman), A. Rosdol, Vienna and Dr. J. Biedermann, Winterthur; *Dance*—R. J. Wilkie, Manchester (Chairman), H. Meudde, Paris and W. O. Hickok, Harrisburgh, Pa., USA.

G. F. C. Witt (Holland) was elected an honorary member. Eastern Germany is the latest affiliation. Carl F. Sæther (Norway) has been disqualified for life as a judge or referee, while Peter Gross (Germany) and Dr. H. Mugeli (Switzerland) have been suspended for one and three years respectively as from June 8th.

World Championships for Ladies, Men, Pairs and Ice Dancing will be held at Oslo, February 14-20; European Championships, same branches, at Bolzano, Italy, January 28-31. Speed Skating—World Championship for Men at Sapporo, Japan, January 16-17, European Championship for Men at Davos, February 6-7.

Jacqueline Vives has produced France's first professional ice show, with the emphasis on ballet—her tank show first appeared in the Bois de Boulogne in June. Jean Gries also reports some lovely pair work by Phil Romaine and Terry Brent in a small show at the Lido Cabaret in Paris. Mme. Mintz-Vaudecrane has been with some of her pupils to Chamonix—she has given us Alain Giletti, Alain Calmat and Maryvonne Huet and world champion Jacqueline du Bief. Jacqueline Vives will shortly resume with her school at the Palais de Glace, containing such excellent skaters as Dany Rigoulot, junior champion, Nicole Erdos, Jean Vives and Nadine Damien, pair champions—Mme. Damien has now turned pro to star in her teacher's show.

Wanted two professionals, gold dance standard, to teach at the Patinoire Victor Hugo, Paris—please send details to the Editor in the first place.

To mark the opening of the winter season at Streatham, a grand gala will be held on September 1st, with exhibitions by leading skaters. Ice hockey season re-commences on September 23rd—last season Streatham won the National League trophy, while their intermediate team won the "Coronation" Trophy. New BHA rule states that no rink may now sign up more than ten overseas players—this should provide incentive for the local lads who cherish hope of playing in the major league. Donald Gimson, promising pupil of Peggy Tomlins, hopes to achieve silver dance by Christmas—while many have an eye on Gerry Goddard in the same category. Charles Gorton has an eye on silver figures—best wishes to his young pupil, Beryl Sherrard, anxious for prelim. figures. Friends of Albert Potts will be pleased to know that he is settling down well as a member of the instructional staff. Dance Club resumes club sessions on September 6th—would-be members should contact Gerry Goddard, c/o Streatham Ice Rink. Dr. Heinz Spranger and family on holiday from Berlin have been greatly impressed by our standard of dancing and had instruction from Peggy Tomlins and Joan Tomlinson—Dr. Spranger and his sons Henry and Nicky all passed their prelim. dance tests before returning home.

Tom Arnold's ice revue at the Granville Theatre, Ramsgate, for the summer season seems to be doing nice business—prominent in the show are Wondrous, Jan Tors, Frieda and Erik, Dinkie Stapleton, Luba Natová, Ives and French, Toni Congden, and the Two Bokdamus.

Leonard Thompson's popular show at Morecambe Ice Theatre features Ina Syme, Delicia Dudek, Raymond Harris, Leonard Deane, Evan King, Claude Zola and gold medallists Harry Parnell and Wendy Mann. Show opened on June 20th and will run to end of the Illuminations period. Mr. Thompson's Blackpool show has been playing to very good houses twice daily—comedy trio of Carl Westwood, Terry Durkin and Don Malcolm has been well received. Apart from those mentioned elsewhere, prominent skaters taking part include Margaret Hornby, Dorothy Treble and Kevin McGrath. Bettina Merson has once again produced two fine shows.

Cover subjects: Tommy Duckett and Josephine Bishton (Mr. and Mrs. Duckett in private life), whose highly polished pair skating in *Holiday in Paris* at Margate Hippodrome has proved one of the highlights of the show.

Cyril Beastall



A British Empire and Commonwealth Skating Federation?

by T. D. RICHARDSON

SOME TIME AGO, a belated attempt was made to have figure skating included in the Empire Games—but unfortunately without success. Last winter the subject was brought to my mind once again by Norris Bowden, the distinguished Canadian pair skater, when he and his partner Frances Dafoe were practising on the Kulm rink at St. Moritz. In due course I spoke to a friend of mine who is closely associated with these Games and I was given to understand that such an inclusion was not possible, at any rate not in Vancouver next year. A pity—but what is wrong with the next meeting, in Wales in 1958?—involving a new rink in Cardiff or Swansea.

I have before me a copy of the constitution of the Empire Games, extracts from which show the reason for the absence of any winter sports from these most popular meetings. It was, however, the perusal of its constitution that gave me the idea behind this article.

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The British Empire and Commonwealth Games Federation is established with the following objects:—(1) To educate public opinion regarding the importance of properly organized sports competitions within the constituent parts of the British Empire, and generally to encourage amateur sport throughout the British Empire.

The membership is open to one duly recognized British Empire and Commonwealth Games Association from each of the constituent parts of the British Empire. Each country desiring affiliation to the British Empire and

Commonwealth Games Federation shall form an autonomous British Empire and Commonwealth Association, etc., etc.

The idea really started with the "Festival of Empire" held in London in 1911, but the first B.E. & C. Games were held in 1930 at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Followed by the Games in London in 1934, then at Sydney, Australia in 1938 and at Auckland, New Zealand in 1950.

The sports engaged in are:—Athletics, Boxing, Cycling, Lawn Bowls, Rowing, Swimming, Diving, Wrestling (Free Style), Fencing and Weightlifting are added for 1954. It will be seen that "the programme is limited, with no team sports, to allow general representation with small teams" (here I have quoted Mr. K. S. Duncan, Hon. Sec.). This and the additions for 1954 at Vancouver should encourage us.

There are twenty-four affiliated countries:—Australia, Bermuda, British Guiana, Canada, Ceylon, England, Fiji, Gold Coast, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Malaya, Malta, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Kenya, Scotland, South Africa, Trinidad, Wales. It will be observed that each component part of Gt. Britain including of course Northern Ireland has its own governing body. It is obviously impossible to give more than a brief outline of the Constitution, but discerning readers will see more than one point of interest in the above extracts.

Thus, after much careful thought I put to readers of *Skating World* the suggestion implied by the title of this article.

Let us then examine the possibilities arising from the idea and let us see if, without interfering in any way with any national or international body, the ideals, which many people consider to be in line with modern thought and conditions, could be brought into effect through the medium of a British Empire and Commonwealth Skating Federation.

Although it is not convenient for the British Empire and Commonwealth Games Federation

to admit skating at the moment, that is no reason why we skaters on *both ice and rollers* throughout our large family of nations should not build up an organization on similar lines. Nor is there any reason why these Games should not be held every year, or if this is not possible, every second year.

There are of course many countries where ice skating would present certain difficulties, but now, with the ease and speed of travel, students from these countries are constantly in Britain and other places where there are considerable facilities and every encouragement to start. Moreover, through the touring ice shows which have travelled even as far afield as India, the charm and fascination of our sport has been made known to millions who formerly had no knowledge of it whatsoever; and as far as roller skating is concerned, there should be no problem at all.

I think the next important matter to receive consideration should be the ever-discussable question of amateurism. Modern trend is most definitely towards a point of compromise between pure amateurism—in the old fashioned sense of the term—and the complete abandonment of the old, inflexible, unbending rules. There are many authorities who are of the opinion that it is far better to face facts and to *direct* this trend from pure amateurism, rather than to allow it to drift goodness knows where—developing aimlessly and piling up untold trouble for future generations. Under new rules, drafted with a knowledge of sport in general, yet keeping in mind the artistic as well as the athletic value of figure skating, it would be possible to hold both amateur and “open” competitions.

All this leads me once again to the idea, one that I have had in mind for many years, of the formation of a British Empire and Commonwealth *Winter Sports* Federation, which, given good will, should present no great difficulty.

When we call to mind the letter of Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery dealing with “Open Olympic Events,” published in *The Times* on January 30, 1952—extracts from which appeared in my article “This Amateurism” in *Skating World* in October last—we see *inter alia* that the skiers have advanced with the times in a most commendable way, which might be studied with advantage by many other sports legislators—especially those in command of figure skating.

It must be remembered that figure skating is not only a sport, but is also the foremost “athletic art,” depending more and more on music and the ballet, and in the case of the arena and theatre ice spectacles, on decor, choreography and *mise-en-scène* in general, and that it comes to resemble its sister art in an

ever-increasing temp, more and more each year.

In the arts, amateurism exists only to the point where a measure of excellence has been attained, when the amateur in the majority of cases adopts his art as his career, making it his life's work. Much the same thing is happening in figure skating to-day, where, in the majority of cases, a victor's crown leads to stardom and considerable financial gain.

Under an Empire and Commonwealth Skating Federation, many other interesting and far-reaching suggestions could be tried out—such as new figures, new dances and new conceptions of dancing, new methods of marking and judging, all of which would receive a quicker, more practical and objective investigation than is possible when every one of such suggestions must be translated into several languages, the deepest meaning in consequence being very often lost in the process.

It may be argued that any nation can try out such proposals locally, as it were. But such experiments or even discussions cannot have the same significance as they would have if skaters of many English-speaking countries were engaged.

It is true that the skaters of the Empire are eligible for the British Championships, but entries from overseas have been very limited. The only winners “from away” to date have been, the Ladies by the late Mrs. Constance Wilson Samuel of Canada in 1928, and the Men's by Arthur Apfel of South Africa in 1946 and Adrian Swan of Australia in 1951. With the ease and speed of modern travel, a different Empire venue could be used on each occasion, giving a wonderful opportunity for interchange of views, not only on sport but on many other matters of interest, between the young people, the future rulers and guardians of the destiny of our race.

At present, it is true, the rules, the constitution, the tests, etc., of the many governing bodies are not the same, and were these co-ordinated it would help considerably. This co-ordination should not be impossible of achievement, for free and frank discussion would be far easier than at present.

The logical outcome of all this is an Empire and Commonwealth Winter Sports Federation, comprising with skating, ski-ing, curling, bobsleigh and toboggan. As a basis for this ideal I think a meeting between skaters and skiers is a first essential, and on the same score I can foresee nothing but close collaboration from the other winter sports people. With twenty-four nations associated, the titles to be gained would rival in importance any others, just as they do in the “Empire Games.”

That the new Federation would need some finance in the formative period is certain. But this should not be too difficult, especially if immediately after its inception Empire and Commonwealth Skating Competitions on both ice and rollers were held in London, in a mammoth meeting including figures, dance and speed. Here would be the great opportunity to give international status to *indoor ice speed*, which demands such a high standard of technique, athletic and skating ability, recognition of which is denied by the International Skating Union, mainly, one is inclined to think, because of a complete ignorance of it by the majority of members of the Council of that body.

In fact all that I have said herein would be

perfectly feasible and the aspirations of all be investigated by authorities motivated by a desire for progress and guided by men who have not forgotten the practice or the need for constant study of the art of skating in *all* its branches. Men with a knowledge and understanding of other sports, games and pastimes, or whatever you care to call them, together with their allied arts. Men who are not hide-bound, but open-minded and filled with a desire to further the cause of skating. Finally, men without a mental frontier guarding their own particular nationality, but united as they have been in greater things, and prepared not only to forego slick advantage, but even to make sacrifices in order to ensure success.

NEW ZEALAND ICE NEWS

by RHONA THOMAS

JULY 5th proved a sad day for Christchurch ice skaters, when they learned that half of the ice rink had been burnt to the ground. The police believe that some person or persons broke in very early in the morning and set fire to the rink. Perhaps the offender has a distorted sense of humour by linking up the disaster with Armand Perren's show at present in Christchurch, this being called *Hot Ice*. It is all very suspicious looking in any case and most unfortunate, owing to the fact that in the afternoon following the fire a huge two-hour exhibition of skating was to have been held, the funds to have been given to the St. John Ambulance Association. This show was to have included an ice hockey match, New Zealand versus "Hot Ice" team, with several exhibitions by stars of "Hot Ice" and local talent.

I had the pleasure of attending the opening night performance of "Hot Ice" and Armand Perren must be congratulated on the very fine show which is of a high standard from start to finish. There is more entertainment "off the ice" than in his previous show. A "wonder boy," 10-year-old Gene Jimae plays the mouth organ with amazing talent. Clever juggling and balancing feats, magical and comical sketches all proved to make a show well worth seeing. As far as the skating is concerned, Pat Gregory is tops. Fast and beautifully controlled spins, axel paulsens, one after the other, made to look as if she just floated in the air, together with delightfully thought-out link steps and executed in such a light tripping manner, all made up a wonderful performance not to be forgotten. Another outstanding item in my memory was that of the American pair, Farrar and Carter. This is the nearest interpretation to real ballet on ice that I have seen and words fail to describe the artistry of this pair. Alice Farrar is not only a skater, she is an actress, her mining being of first-class order. There are many new faces in the *corps de ballet* and it was very pleasing to see our own New Zealand girl Joy Stewart, the 1952 NZ ladies' figure champion, amongst the ballet. The costumes are excellent and very modern. Some of the materials used were very costly and effective, but as to styles, I do hope that the show will not set the fashion for future skating attire for girls. One sees a lot of bathing costume styles with no skirts, very glamorous-looking no doubt, but may the day never come when we do not see any

more graceful little skirts that look so charming when a skater is spinning.

Championship fever is now rising in New Zealand as the annual New Zealand Championships draw near. This year they are to be held on July 18th and 19th at Cromwell; the figures to be skated for both Ladies' and Men's events being forward outside eight, forward inside eight, backward outside eight, backward inside eight, change of edge forward on both feet, and two minutes' free skating. The Dancing Championship consists of the Waltz, Foxtrot and Fourteen-Step. The Pairs is limited to two minutes' skating. Speed events will include ladies' 220 and 880 yards and men's 220, 880 yards and 1½ miles. The inter-club relay race for the "Wyndham Barker" Cup will be skated at Alexandra on the Sunday. Alexandra is not far from Cromwell, which is situated in the Otago Provincial District of the South Island. The New Zealand Junior Championships are to be held at Timaru in August, for competitors under 16 years of age.

Judges for the New Zealand Senior Championships are to be Mr. Armand Perren, Mr. Ron Hosken of the Tekapo Ice Skating Club and Professor J. Y. T. Greig. Professor Greig came to the Chair of English at the Otago University a year ago from Johannesburg, where he was president of both the Figure Skating and Ice Hockey Associations of South Africa, and he had considerable experience on the administration and judging side. We know his experience will be of benefit to New Zealand ice skating.

A very keen Christchurch ice skater is John Buchanan who is at present in England on holiday with his wife. We heard glad news recently of his passing the NSA bronze test for figures. Mr. Buchanan for many years has been keen and although not young (he is in his seventies) he will be seen practising diligently. On previous trips Mr. Buchanan has confined his skating activities to the Queen's Ice Club and intended renewing old acquaintances on his present tour of England and the Continent.

Another local skater is Miss Janice Moore, now making an extended tour of England and the Continent. She is having lessons from the well-known Erik van der Weyden.



Ice Dance Changes

by R. J. WILKIE

AT THE 25TH biennial Congress of the ISU, held at Stresa in June, some 182 proposals from various nations were discussed. Many of these were concerned with ice dancing, and it will be interesting to examine what changes have emerged from the Congress in this department of skating.

It is good news to be able to report that the first European Championship in ice dancing will take place this season. It will be held at the new rink at Bolzano, Italy, at the end of January, 1954. The institution of a European Championship was originally a British proposal at the 1931 Congress at Copenhagen, but whilst a World Championship was approved at that meeting it was generally felt that Anglo-American superiority over other countries was so marked at that time that conditions were not ripe for a championship where we should be without American opposition; however, it was agreed that a European Championship would eventually be held. At the recent Congress, Austria once more took up the cudgels for a European in the 1953-54 season—and this time there was no opposition.

Another alteration is the abolition of the pernicious grouping system. In recent years, competing couples have for their free dancing been divided into groups on the basis of their marks for the compulsory dances. If, for example, twelve couples competed they were divided into three groups and these groups did their free dancing poorest group first, best group second and middling group last, the order within each group being determined by lot. In future there will be no grouping and the order for the free will be decided by a straight draw.

Two alterations are made to the Argentine Tango. The two one-beat edges of RFI and LFO (steps 20 and 21) are deleted from the dance, which proceeds directly from LFO (step 19) to a four-beat cross-rolled RFO (now step 20, but formerly step 22). The manner of performing these steps is only slightly, though perceptibly, affected by this change.

The second alteration is really a reversion to the original form of the dance: the edges after the lady's twizzle (she is on RFO and

the man on LBO) are lengthened from two beats to four, a modification which will please nearly all of us. It should be explained that a few years ago when international agreement on the dances was being obtained, an objection was made that the dance sequence occupied 58 beats of music, i.e., $14\frac{1}{2}$ bars, meaning that if the dance was started on beat one, the next sequence commenced on beat three. To overcome this, two beats were taken off the dance at what was then thought to be the most convenient place—the edge after the twizzle—which was cut from four to two beats. Experience has however shown that this was a mistake and that an attractive movement in the dance suffered by this curtailment. This edge has, therefore, now been reinstated at four beats and the excess two beats have been removed from the dance by the deletion of steps 20 and 21. This is an international change, but there is little doubt that the NSA Ice Dance Committee will at an early meeting be making a similar alteration in the gold test schedule.

Incidentally, a French proposal at the Congress was for a definition of the twizzle, which I am duly asked to supply and which now goes into the international glossary of dance terms as follows:—

Twizzle: A twizzle is a rotation through a complete revolution performed so rapidly that it takes place almost on one spot. The turn is made counterwise off a forward outside edge, the weight being kept largely on the skating foot but with the free foot kept close beside it ready to skate a forward outside edge at the completion of the turn.

It may not always be appreciated that, although the man's step in the European Waltz is invariably skated as a cross roll in this country, it has long been optional to skate an open stroke, both internationally and under NSA rules. This option has now been removed and the cross roll becomes compulsory. This will not affect us as we have always considered that the cross roll gives a smoother change of rotation than the open stroke.

Finally, a major alteration and one which may provoke some controversy is, that in future international events lifts and jumps are completely excluded from Free Dancing and spins may only extend to one and a half revolutions. Naturally the question will now

be asked—what is going to happen in our NSA tests and championships? But this is a point that the Ice Dance Committee is considering and I cannot anticipate its decision. Internationally, however, it will certainly mean that the highlights of a free dance programme will suffer a basic change and in place of lifts and jumps there will be a veering round to novel dance moves and combinations, executed in impeccable style and with closer attention than ever to the rhythm and character of the music. There is plenty of scope for our inventive genius here and I am certain that

many interesting and delightful moves will be evolved as a result of this enforced focussing of our energies in a new direction. For it must regretfully be admitted that in the past—and I am referring now to the free in many silver and gold tests—lifts and jumps have often been literally peppered into programmes with little or no regard for their appropriateness, either in the musical scheme or the general character of the free dance programme, but solely, it would appear, in expectation of gaining contents value.



SPEEDMEN in Scotland will be getting down to hard training again next month, with prospects much the same as last season—by Christmas we may well be seeing new stars north of the border.

Crossmyloof will again be the strongest club in all probability—with an active membership of around fifty. Last season's stars will be back again, with the exception of Henry Bisset, who has transferred to Paisley Club Rapide. The club and Scotland will suffer a setback when Jacky Murray comes due for national service in November—not yet fully matured, Jacky is confidently expected in the next few years to become as great or even greater than his brother Tommy was at his best. When one remembers that Tommy has skated a half-mile in 1 min. 22 secs., and in 1949 was Scotland's outstanding speed skater and the first holder of the "Fitzroy Smith" Trophy, this is saying a lot.

Paisley Club Rapide have lost Willie McGaffin, a really great relay skater, but have acquired the services of Henry Bisset and should be a strong side this coming season. In addition, they have signed up some promising youngsters and their club is numerically stronger than ever before.

Falkirk will have Chalmers and Blair back from the Forces, also some new youngsters come on.

Dundee are still struggling for members—what they lack is competition and we shall do all we can to give them more racing.

There is a possibility of a club being formed at the new Murrayfield Ice Stadium at Edinburgh—it is hoped to put on some first-class exhibition racing to show the Edinburgh folk how exciting speed can be, and so encourage the powers-that-be at that rink to start a club.

Owing to lack of ice practice time, Ayr club nearly closed down at the end of last season—it is still not known if they will be able to resume activities this season. It would be a pity if they could not race, for their boys are a fine enthusiastic bunch of youngsters. They have Alex Connell, Scottish mile champion who, to my mind, only requires a little more experience to become Britain's best miller. If Ayr do not race this season, Connell will turn out for Falkirk. That will not do him any harm, because he would then be racing with Willie Douglas, one of the wildest men in the game and would learn a great deal from him.

We in Scotland are still wistfully hoping for a visit from the Canadians or Americans, and we hope the NSA will without delay start negotiations for inter-

national matches with our overseas cousins when they come to Europe for the outdoor championships.

DOWN SOUTH

It appears that the accent for season 1953-54 will be on the consolidation of two clubs, Nottingham and the Surrey SC. In Nottingham's case, they must surely establish themselves among the top three clubs now they have shown their real capabilities. However, once they reach the top, they will find it harder to keep there than it was getting to the top! They have the material, even if their star man Norman Holwell does decide to go outdoors and show the Scandinavians that more than one Englishman can challenge them in their national sport. Anyone who saw Nottingham last season will know that their achievements were not due to the prowess of just one skater, but to well-balanced team-work. If they can maintain present progress, then they may well take their place among the really great speed teams of all time.

In the case of Surrey, they must now start to establish themselves as a really organized club. This will be their first full competitive season and it shows something of their spirit that they have launched themselves into the National League to take on all comers. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Everybody will be watching them with great interest. If they are successful, some will ask "Why can't we have two clubs at other rinks? —and no one can deny that it is a shortage of clubs that is hindering our progress at present.

What will happen to Birmingham and Aldwych? Both clubs have been racing teams much older than many would have considered wise a few years ago. But they had a bunch of youngsters ready to step into the shoes of any of the first team who might lose form—maybe we shall see some new faces this season? It may be, on the other hand, that the notion that a speed skater is an old man at 24 is not altogether correct.

One team well worth watching now is Southampton—a new team which has overcome the teething period and one which in the opinion of many down south contains the finest bunch of really young skaters seen since the war. The large number of 16 and 17-year-olds on their books show that they are out to build up essential strength to take them to the top—even if they don't get right to the top this season, it will only be a few years before they are really going places.

W.H.F.S.

Skating Personalities

meet **FRANK WONDROUS**

FRANK WONDROUS, veteran ice comedian now appearing in Tom Arnold's summer show at Ramsgate, has appeared on rink, screen, stage and TV all over the world. Modest and unassuming, Frank well deserves his consistent success over the years in show business.

Although Frank is now of British nationality, he was born in Czechoslovakia as Frantisek Vondrous—he first skated in Prague in 1917, at the age of ten. When the Winter Stadium, Prague, opened in 1933, he opened a sports shop there. That year, he was asked to become one of a trio and present a comedy number during the intervals of an ice hockey match—he scored a great success and was soon giving exhibitions in other towns. He first appeared in England in 1938, with "Ice Circus" at Empress Hall, then went to Brighton summer 1939 for "Icebound." Domiciled in England 1939-47, he was on war work for some years and returned to ice shows in 1945, with "Hot Ice" at Brighton.

Since 1945, Frank has appeared in many leading shows and is well-known to regular skaters at most rinks—in 1951 he was featured in Turkey's first ice show at Istanbul, which ran for nearly three months. He will leave for Cape Town, South Africa, in November, to take part in a Tom Arnold pantomime.



meet **PEGGY TOMLINS**

MARGARET TOMLINS, known to all her many skating friends as "Peggy," ranks as one of Britain's most popular instructresses. This charming and talented young lady has been teaching at Streatham for the past six years.

Peggy first donned the blades at her home rink, Streatham, at the age of 7. She soon passed bronze figures under the guidance of Benny Lee—by season 1939-40 she had become an NSA gold figure medallist, as a pupil of Howard Nicholson. In 1951, she passed gold dance, with Colin Bosley—and the next year had acquired silver pair, again with Colin. She hopes to take her gold pair skating test in the not too distant future, when time for practice permits.

Peggy has also tried speed skating, and passed bronze when she was an amateur. She has not been attracted to show business and is fully absorbed in her teaching—her conscientiousness does her great credit. She has big hopes for one of her younger pupils—7-year-old Vera Jefferies of Brighton.

Hobbies include knitting and tennis—but the golf bug seems to have bitten her badly in recent months?

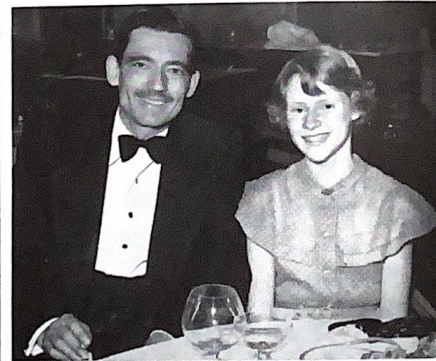


Leonard Thompson's "Ice Parade of 1953" has played to good houses all summer. Scene four of the show "The Night We Went To The Minnehaha Minstrels" is one of the highlights and introduces the full company

Photo: H. E. Howorth Ltd., Blackpool

★

Harry Francis is to be congratulated on staging an excellent show by his many pupils at Birmingham Ice Rink "Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs"—it was the type of show that most children love to see



Above—Former World Champion Graham Sharp seen with 13-year-old Carolyn Drewitt at a Bournemouth Coronation night social—Graham regards this young lady as a most promising figure skating prospect

Photo: C & H Photo Service

Left—Anne Taylor, brilliant pupil of Ernst Hartung at Birmingham, who recently won the "Cannan" Cup for free skating

Photo: Hudson Studio



Top left—Valerie Moon as "Zahrat" the slave girl in "Chu Chin Chow on Ice" at Wembley—she must now be getting used to being cast as the 'bad girl' of the ice!

Photo: Wembley Stadium Ltd

★

Above — Caroline Krau, promising 9-year-old Queens skater who gave exhibitions at all of the galas held at the Central London rink last season

Photo: Leon Chapman

★

"Ice Highlights" has had a successful run at the Westover rink, Bournemouth, this summer—our picture shows the finale

WITH THE SHOWS

"CHU CHIN CHOW ON ICE"

HERE IS another of those epic ice spectacles from the Tom Arnold store of great entertainments. This one brings the famous story of "Chu Chin Chow" by Oscar Ashe, and sends the well-known music by Frederick Norton resounding throughout the lofty Empire Pool.

The brilliance that one always associates with the East is here in all its magnificent splendour—the charm of old Baghdad, exotic costumes, beautiful slaves and dancers, the inside of a harem, big Nubian slaves and of course plenty of the robber types who lived by the sword and knife in the fourteenth century.

Yes indeed! This first summer production, devised and produced by that old master Gerald Palmer, lives up to, and in fact surpasses any of his previous ice shows. Once again the story is cut to a minimum and therefore there is almost continuous movement. The skating is also cut to a minimum as far as difficulty is concerned, but we now appreciate that a show on ice does not call for championship grade. The idea is simply to portray a character and perform to a pleasing standard the actual skating required.

This is in fact carried out admirably. Gloria Nord, who stars as the slave girl Marjanah excels in keeping her audience happy—all with very little effort. For the first time we see what a tiny yet perfect figure she is, for her costumes which are very beautiful are at the same time on the scanty side. This prompts us to wonder if this will now be the trend in ice shows of the future, because apart from Gloria, in the Harem scene a number of showgirls, again scantily attired, take a dip in a scented foam bath—after Denise Vane has performed her version of the Dance of the Seven Veils!!

Whilst Gloria upholds the American standard, British prestige is never in doubt whilst delightful Sheila Hamilton is on the ice. This girl is a show stealer, simply oozing charm and personality—and has a neat solo too!

A newcomer to Wembley shows is Eddie Delbridge, a very likeable American from Los Angeles. He started work as a singer, took to skating and then teamed up with Gloria Nord. He is now a very active partner for her in some most attractive adagio type pair skating. Particularly did we like the "In the Starlight" number.

Ron Priestley is the demon robber chief Abu Hasan, and handsomely leads his band of forty cut throats—yes there really are forty—through their escapades, and all to that wonderful marching music.

Valerie Moon gets across the character of the sulky Zahrat extremely well, but did not impress too much with her actual skating. George Miller makes an impressive Kasim Baba and features in that grand cave setting. He is most realistically tormented by every imaginable kind of ghostly horror in a truly great 'black light' scene before meeting his horrible 'death' at the hands of Abu and the forty.

Ali Baba—the famous Ali Baba—is gaily characterized by Tony Somers whilst Jeanette Raphael trips jauntily through as his over-fat wife. Ron Wells, Michael Walker and George Stevens also hold plenty of the limelight, and Pat Devries gives a short but neat solo in this her professional debut.

Chorus work, apart from one or two exceptions, is not up to the usual precise standard. There was a lot of jamming up, and at times it was difficult to see any semblance of order.

Of course there are the usual interludes and this time there is, Marjorie Chase, Rafe Caldicott and Victor MacDonald in an oriental trio, Tagora with his fire eating and sword swallowing and a sensational acrobatic quartet, the Bogdads who really are a smart and clever act.

Finale to the show is the garden of the palace, preceded of course by one of the famous 'fashion parades'—a section that is now a must in any TA production. Actual finale is a wedding scene (another noted spot), this a truly magnificent one with twinkling stars and a huge lighted centre piece that just had to be lowered from the roof!

Martin Holden

SONJA HENIE AT EMPRESS HALL

EIGHT P.M. on Whit-Monday May 25th, was a date eagerly awaited by so many, for at that hour we were to see the 1953 edition of the Sonja Henie Ice Revue open its London season. Here was an opportunity to see at long, long last that golden personality of pre-war skating. Previously we had only ever seen her in action on the screen—that is those of us not actively associated with the sport in the years prior to 1936—and that always left one guessing and wanting to see her in the flesh.

Just to heighten our enthusiasm the 'curtain up' was fifteen minutes late, but then at last the great moment arrived. Out skated the forty members of the chorus for a Rainbow number that was really dazzlingly brilliant—we had heard a lot about these costumes and they were all of that—and more! This then was the de luxe show! Not much longer to wait and there was Sonja Henie herself, not so cutely plump, but a very glamorous figure surrounded by the magnificent golden costumes of her chorus in "Gold Elegance."

Those of us who had hoped against hope of seeing some of the skating that had made her World and Olympic champion on so many occasions were indeed sadly disappointed—and that was the story throughout the rest of the show in each of the appearances she made. We are well aware that this was an ice show and that one cannot hope to see the precision and technique of a championship number—but it was an *ice show* and *not* a show on ice! She was dainty, had plenty of zip and personality and did show how to centre a spin, but how we would have loved to have been treated with a straightforward exhibition number—even only two minutes would have been grand!

Many things have been said and written, but my personal reaction was that it was an enjoyable show simply because of the superb costumes, the really excellent chorus routines—each performed so slickly and without any fuss or bother—and for one grand skating interlude by Donald Watson—his actually were flashing blades!

The five main production numbers each featured Sonja and the best in my opinion were the "Cuban Voodoo Ritual," which contained an authentic dance by Alexander and Martha—an off the ice performance unfortunately too far off to be really appreciated, and that wonderful finale, "Circus on Parade."

Of the acts that appeared in between these production numbers the two worthy of special mention were those by Buddy La Londe with his modernized jumping exhibition—he had improved since we last saw him and provided many a thrill with his great variety of jumps, and in the comedy field Larry Hamm and David Riggs impressed with their *second* number.

Charles and Lucille Cavanagh provided the adagio pair whilst Joyce Lockwood was the only other girl ground, and following a production number as well as La Londe's dynamics naturally looked drab in comparison, but she is a smooth performer who very nicely covers the ice at a fairly fast pace.

Marshall Beard, who partnered Sonja in an uninteresting pair had his solo spot. This was fairly fast and also covered the ice, but he has a rather loping lunched style, and lacked really interesting contents. Perhaps the act appreciated best of all was that other off-the-ice one by Willie West and McGinty—"House Building"—again too far off for details to be thoroughly enjoyed.

All-in-all an interesting, yet disappointing experience, an expensive evening out for the ordinary person—this must have been the heaviest priced ice show ever! unique for its lack of scenery, but always to be remembered for its really stupendous costumes. Finally a special pat on the back for the chorus, who after all had so little time for rehearsals.

Martin Holden

"ICE CIRCUS OF 1953"

Tom Arnold's summer show at the Sports Stadium, Brighton, has again proved a distinct success—according to S.S. publicity manager Alan Weeks, over 100,000 people saw the show in its first five weeks, and the recent TV broadcast was well received by press and public all over the country. Gerald Palmer is, of course, the producer, with choreography by Beatrice Livesey. Highlights include Jean Colquhoun's stilt skating, Arthur Apfel's amazing spins, the delightfully slick pair skating of Len Liggett and Pam Murray, Topper Martyn's versatile juggling, Valda Osborn's brilliant solo, Badminton on ice between Lorne Trotter and Lea Hardy, Herbert Alward's "Skating Melody" number, Nearly and Fell, the new British ice comedians, Margaret Beatty's "Ice Rhythm" number, The Maxwells and their clowning, Jeanne and Archie Craig in "Music Hath Charms," Preston Lee in "Ice Dynamics," plus several very fine non-skating acts—notably the sensational Rockleys and Banner Forbitt, probably the greatest of all ice-cyclists.

The Circusettes—Jane Huckle, capt., Netta Yeoman, Betty Munro, Brenda Johnson, Gillian Betteridge, Joan Froggatt, Betty Kennett, June Mockford, Gillian Read, Joan Kleiman, Joan Vaughan, Joan Murphy, Paula Davies, Barbara Lee, Muriel Jones, Marie Lee, Mary Claire, Deirdre Quero, Joy Garvey, Kathleen Vaughan, Eirwen Thomas, Sonia Newson, Antonia Matthews, Pat Lynne, Valerie Nash, Honor Dryden. The orchestra is under the direction of Glan Evans.

Westover Productions

"ICE HIGHLIGHTS" AT BOURNEMOUTH "HOLIDAY IN PARIS" AT MARGATE

THIS YEAR the Westover organization have embarked on a bigger scale into the ice show business. At the delightful Westover rink there is the usual summer ice attraction and this season it is *Ice Highlights*, an appropriately titled show for Coronation year, whilst at the Hippodrome, Margate, a touring company are performing last season's *Holiday in Paris*—with, of course, varied additional acts.

Ice Highlights has as its stars some old friends who have appeared in past Bournemouth productions. There's that Australian personality boy, Reg Park, Lilian van derdeghe, Vivian Read, who incidentally is responsible for the productions, in co-operation with

John L. Neal, of both shows, and features as the singer in this one. There's Paddy Woods and Stevenson and Oldfield—now a really grand comedy pair, the Howard Bros., Tony and Geoff, and then we have Johnny Ladd Michael Kent, Kay Bishop, Larry Peters, Reg. Redcliffe and John Malisart and Simone Haerens. *The corps de ballet* of Valerie Urry, Ann Trenam, Pam Stewart, Penny Day, Jean Lanham, Jill Rees, Annette Rees, Pam Smithson, Josephine Aldridge, Gloria Barnett, Joyce Allen, Pat Browne and Sonia Bamforth complete a well-dressed colourful show.

The acts take one from the start of a holiday onwards to "The Meet," "On the Serpentine" and then into the heart of Piccadilly and on to the heights of Hampstead Heath, back to Le Pigalle and finalizing in a "London Fantasy."

Over at Margate the scene is set on a "tank" set up on the stage of the Hippodrome. This tank is rather on the small size—it has to be to fit the stage—and comprises 24 sections that joined together form a very good skating surface of 34ft. by 20ft. All credit due to J. Simcock, the chief engineer.

In actual fact this production, that was such a success at Bournemouth, is if anything even more attractive on the smaller surface and with the addition of certain variety acts is a very pleasant evening's entertainment.

Star of the show is as before, Jirina Nekolová who condenses her numbers remarkably well. She shows her versatility well in her change of mood from the Lady of the Boulevard to her Burmese Princess number. Both are presented with a great amount of showmanship and are warmly applauded by an audience who can hardly be described as skating-minded.

Other production numbers are much on the same lines as before, but there are of course certain changes in the artistes appearing in them. Eric Erdos has the same parts as before and he too has fitted his numbers very well to this tank. His personality and presentation stand out in his two solos "Rhapsody" and "An American in Paris." Tommy Duckett and his wife Josephine Bishton give many an attractive pair and adagio number, but even so we felt that they could well have added a little more of that personality that sells a skating act.

Jimmy Rudge and Bob Lenthall handle the comedy section extremely well and are at their best in the burlesque in the Montmartre scene and also in "The Gardens at Fontainebleau."

Throughout the show there appears Bernard Spear, that popular comedian of stage, radio and TV fame. His antics assisted by Hilary Hazelwood, blend well with the rest of the show and naturally he is responsible to a large extent for the slickness and fast movement that is apparent. There is always something happening—never any of those dull dead moments that can creep into any ice production.

"Le Bal Tabarin" introduces cabaret acts and here we have Peter Redvers with his Marionettes, beautifully made skating and cycling dolls—but so much more could be achieved with them. Guy Vernon entertaining with his "Radio Party" and proving to be a very good impressionist. That ace trumpeter Tommy Ashworth, who quickly had his audience joining in with his selection of popular melodies.

The girls of the chorus, Pamela Mackrell, Shirley Smith, Jeanette Derham, Pamela Board, Betty Smith, Barbara Cox, Brenda Young, Wendy Briggs, Margaret Mynard, Anne Lovering, Joan Sweny and Rosina Nash have some neat costumes to wear—but having very little difficult skating to do so they should strive to obtain a little more enthusiasm with their numbers. At least look as if it is a pleasure to go out there on the stage, even though it is only a matter of routine—after all it is just that for every other member of the cast!

Martin Holden



NEWS FROM THE RINKS



BIRMINGHAM

On May 14th, the free skating (three minutes) event for the "Cannan" Trophy attracted five entries—Dena Hargreaves, Janette Dimmock, Noreen Poynton, Ann Taylor and Diane Johnson. First place went to Ann Taylor, who looked charming in a white dress with red underskirt—she skated a difficult programme exceedingly well. Janette Dimmock came second—she did not seem to recover from the effects of an early fall—all her major jumps were marred by two-foot landing. It was one of Janette's unlucky days—she looked very attractive in a dress made by herself and skated to "Italian Symphony." Both of these young ladies are pupils of Ernst Hartung. Third place went to Dean Hargreaves, a pupil of Harry Francis, who skated a very sound programme to "The Last Rhapsody." Judges were: Messrs. B. Bailey, R. Bayliss and O. Penn. We were very pleased to welcome back to the rink our manager, Mr. J. Easton, who had been indisposed for some days.

The competition for the "Clark" Cups was staged on May 21st (Blues). There were six entries and first place went to Jeffries-Ball, with Bruce-Cockayne second and Russell-Hargreaves third. Same evening the rocker foxtrot event for the "Bayliss" Cups was held, with five entries. Shepherd-Boardman came first, with Russell-Hargreaves second and Bruce-Cockayne third. Judges: Messrs. N. Bradley, D. Cannan and J. Roberts. The awards for each event were presented by Miss R. Hartley.

An audition for the "Belita" ice show at Dudley was held here on May 20th and again on June 3rd.

The sports session on Coronation evening was very popular and several novelty events brought fun to the ice, and Mrs. Eileen Hartung presented an ice fantasy featuring seventeen young ladies in white high-neck dresses with red sash and hussar hats, counter-marching up and down the rink—they looked very smart.

On June 4th, the 14-step competition for the "Jennings" Cups had seven entries and was won by Shepherd-Boardman, with Jeffries-Clark second and Christmas-Myatt third. Judges: Messrs. B. Bailey, N. Bradley and J. Roberts. Mary Perry presented the awards.

Redecorating has been taking place during the four weeks' close-down, and the rink re-opens on September 1st.

On August 1st, for the last children's session until September 5th, Harry Francis presented "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," lasting thirty minutes—the cast of fifty ranged in age from 5 to 14 years. It proved just the thing for the kiddies and all gave sound performances. Scenery was designed and made by none other than Harry Francis himself. Cast included: *Snow White*—Dena Hargreaves, who proved first-class; *The Prince*—Josephine Pye, a very attractive principal boy; *The Queen*—Cynthia Danks; *The Sun*—Irene Pimm; *The Bat*—Pat Cox; *The Hunter*—June Winters; *The Dwarfs*—Barry Sutton, Michael Wyatt, Brian Wyatt, Andria Chatwin, Raymond Steele, Martin Masters, Rickey Shorrocks; *The Butterflies*—Barbara Cunningham, Marion Harris, Jacky Powell;

The Birds—Christine Evans, Susan Folks, Diane Whitbread, Janet Watt, Pauline Shorrocks, Jacky Holliday, Jacky Powell, Janet Longdon, Merrill Harris, Pat Higgs, Dawn Whitehouse, Betty Street; *The Clouds*—Pat Upcott, Annette Dalhoquerque, Jean Boaz, Rita Colbourne, Jean Warburton, Sonia Harris, Christine Johnson, Pat Winters; *The Animals*—Ann Linton, Ann Whitbread, Dawn Whitehouse, Sally Steele, Lorraine Higgs, John Hickman, John Dalhoquerque; *Acrobat*—Yvonne Danks. Congratulations to all on a fine show.

Our instructional staff remains the same: Ernst Hartung, Jimmy Thomson, Harry Francis, Ken Vickers, Garry Owen, Mrs. Eileen Hartung, Miss Levitsky, Doreen Winchurch, Vi Thomson and Dave Tedstone.

Congratulations to Olwen Boardman and Phil Shepherd on their recent marriage—a large crowd of skaters turned up at church to wish them lots of luck and happiness.

We much regret that Mrs. A. Wyatt will not be with us this season—morning and afternoon skaters will miss her very much. Garry Owen will be taking over, hoping the standard of co-operation and efficiency will continue. Mrs. Whittingham, known to many as "Skip," will resume her duties as booking clerk this season. C.D.H.

BLACKPOOL

Ice Parade of 1953—*Time Marches On*—continues playing to capacity houses. The show has recently lost Allen Foster, who is now starting his National Service training. Robert Humphries and Jean Rigby are still very pleasing with their smooth adagio work, while Joan Waterhouse continues to delight Ice Dome audiences. Wal and Wally Read of banjo fame, with vocalists Lewis King and Audrey Whitehead, show their talents in the colourful minstrel number, which is proving to be one of the highlights of the show.

The show will run until early in October and plans are in hand for the coming winter season. Ice hockey fixtures are being arranged now and the Dance Club are studying proposals for the winter. Harry Haigh and Jean Burnley have joined the instructional staff and are combining show work with teaching. The Christmas season pantomime *Mother Goose* is in preparation and the box office is open for enquiries for the Christmas season.

DURHAM

A most enjoyable evening was had by skaters and nearly 1,000 spectators on June 13th, when Durham ISC held their annual competitions. The guest of honour, The Right Worshipful Mayor of Durham, accompanied by the Mayoress, offered congratulations to the winners in a short but very appropriate speech after the event, and expressed pleasure at the high standard of skating seen.

Results: *Ladies' Solo Dance*—1st Joyce Wilding, 2nd Barbara Stokes, 3rd Anne V. Smith; *Junior Men's Free*—1st W. F. Smith; *Junior Ladies' Free*—1st Barbara Stokes; *Novices' Free*—1st Carole Shield;

Senior Men's Free—1st William F. Smith, 2nd Joseph R. Dixon; *Senior Ladies' Free*—1st Alice M. Smith, 2nd Anne V. Smith; *Junior Pairs*—1st Harry Bray and Joyce Wilding, 2nd Richard Taylor and Barbara Stokes; *Senior Pairs*—1st Joseph R. Dixon and Alice M. Smith; *Dance Competition*—1st Joseph R. Dixon and Alice M. Smith, 2nd Harry Bray and Joyce Wilding, 3rd Richard Taylor and Barbara Stokes.

Judges were Mr. M. E. Robinson (Nottingham), Mr. R. S. Hudson (Liverpool) and Miss C. Morris (Nottingham), while Miss Jean M. Higson (Liverpool) was the referee. Club officials and members wish to express sincere appreciation of their services. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Hutchinson and Mrs. Hopps for their kind help in the preparation of the supper to which the club entertained the visiting officials after the skating.

Congratulations to Joseph R. Dixon and Alice M. Smith on passing gold pairs on May 17th, also to Joyce Wilding (silver dance), Susan Harrison (inter-silver dance), Lawrence Hanson (bronze figures), June Markham and Harry Bray (bronze pairs) and Brenda Dove (prelim. figure and dance).

We are pleased to welcome a new ice enthusiast in Sheila Gardiner of Middlesbrough, British roller figure skating champion and a roller gold—many other prominent roller skaters in this area have turned their attention to ice recently, including double gold medalist Lorna Gale.

British Junior Pair and Durham Senior Ladies' Free Skating Champion, Alice M. Smith, received a grand ovation when introduced on the occasion of a gala at Albert Park roller rink, Middlesbrough, on August 3rd.

A big demand for a resident professional persists here, and progress of advanced skaters is impeded by lack of expert tuition. The club is eager to form a dance team, so there is ample scope for anyone with the necessary qualifications—the management will welcome enquiries.

Following the requested resignation of Mr. H. E. Markham as club secretary and the resignation of Mr. W. Craddock as club treasurer, Miss P. Greenwell was elected Hon. Secretary and Mr. J. Leckenby was appointed treasurer. Will correspondents kindly forward details of open and inter-club events to Miss Greenwell, c/o Durham Ice Rink. **Dunelmian**

HARRINGAY

Although club sessions for the 1953-4 season do not commence until October 15th, quite a number of our members have been taking advantage of the skating facilities at the Arena during the summer months.

For those who are not able to renew old acquaintanceships until the season opens, there will be a grand get-together dance at the Archway Tavern, Highgate, on October 10th. The hall is opposite Archway Tube station and easily accessible to all parts of London. Will other clubs please note the date. We shall be delighted to extend to all a very cordial welcome, but please do order your tickets early as the numbers are being limited to enable everyone to dance in comfort. Our club secretary Louise Janes will be pleased to supply full particulars. **F.W.D.**

LIVERPOOL

Congratulations to Rosemary Noden, pupil of Len Mould, on passing silver dance and bronze figures at the end of last season—and to Beryl Hodgson, a pupil of whom Ernst Hartung of Birmingham can be proud, on passing gold figures; judges being Capt. T. D. Richardson, Miss E. Muckelt and Mr. H. Constantine. Other passes were Ida Bailey (inter-silver figures and free), Joyce Coates (inter-silver figures), Bob Ressich and Rita Carr (bronze pair).

On June 2nd we had an exhibition from Len Liggett and Pam Murray, then "resting" after their show visit in South Africa—it was a delightful display of perfect precision skating.

End-of-season exhibitions were given by Len Williams, Toni Chippendall and Olive Davison.

MANCHESTER

With the closing of the Ice Palace on May 30th for the summer recess, most of us had to find other outlets for our spare time energies—time has passed quickly enough, what with tennis, golf, holidays, etc., and now we are polishing our boots and skates and looking at our free leg positions in the mirror, ready for the eagerly-awaited re-opening of the rink. A few of us even kept in trim by practising an allied sport—roller skating—and reports have reached us of the efforts on wheels put in by Lawrence Demmy, Jean Westwood, Ewart Ormandy and others.

We all envy John Slater and John Dewhurst their good fortune in enjoying a sponsored trip to the States for a series of exhibitions, although we appreciate the outstanding ability that has made this tour possible. They left in July and will be away until early September, when Joan returns to her ballet school and her partner to his medical studies.

The annual general meeting of the NSA at London on July 23rd was the occasion for presenting to Lawrence Demmy and Jean Westwood illuminated addresses to mark their success in the World's Ice Dance Championship—the presentation being made by Major K. M. Beaumont, Chairman of the Council.

Outside Edge

QUEEN'S

The rink re-opened on August 18th—and again there was a new look about the place. This time it is a rearrangement of Harry Lauder's office.

It was good to see such old friends as George Marsh, Lew Harris, Paul Thomas, Nesta Davies, June Mann, Alex Gordon, Chuck Wood, Connie Turner, Heather Dean and husband, Capt. Dixon, Jane Green, Pauline Borrajo, Bill Wilson and, believe it or not, Les and Daphne Ward, all back looking fit and raring to go!

Staff changes—Monty Readhead has left to join the staff at Nottingham, along with Barbara, his wife. Peri Horne has now decided on a professional career and thus joins the ranks completed by Gladys Hogg, Cherry Carver, Cissie Krieger, Sheila Boyle, Betty Croom-Johnson, Rita Morrison, Erik van der Weyden, Colin Bosley, Tommy Bell, Gerry Groves and Ron Barnett.

The annual Staff Benefit Gala on July 20th was quite a success—exhibitions were top quality and those who so kindly gave their services were: Caroline Krau with a neat little solo, Diane Peach and Brian Tuck, 'Winkie' Cowley in her own delightful manner, Lawrence Demmy and Jean Westwood, Alec MacGowan and John and Jenny Nicks who flew over specially to appear on this grand and worthy bill. Then there was a repeat of that so effectively arranged Coronation ensemble which was the work of Cissie Krieger, in which no less than thirty-five of the most promising Queens youngsters took part; highlights were a solo by young Derek James (son of Jimmy James, manager of Riordan's shop), brilliant pupil of Colin Bosley, and a pair number by Anita Weston and Elizabeth Frankish, very ably performed.

Skating here for a spell is that German expert, Claus Loichinger—who may well place higher in future international events.

Another ice cabaret will be on TV on October 19th, when I understand some very well-known artistes will take part.

W.Q.R.

RICHMOND

Congratulations to Lydia Boon of Holland who came over here for two weeks' intensive dance practice with Don Crosthwaite, and by special arrangement took her 2nd Class test satisfactorily. She is believed to be the first amateur continental skater to pass this particular NSA test, and great credit is due to both she and her instructor in achieving such results in such a short space of time.

Richmond Amateur Ice Skating Club have arranged to hold the Open Blues competition for the "Tomlinson" Trophy on the same night as the International Figure Skating Competition for Ladies for the massive "Richmond" Trophy. The entries for the Blues Competition close on October 17th and the competition night for both events is Monday, November 2nd.

The club's new ice dance season commences on October 1st and applications for membership should be made as soon as possible to the secretary either in person or via written application.

It has been a pleasure to see organized coach parties from the Southampton rink on one or two Sundays when they have stayed to tea, and on one occasion an hour or so's dancing. Camberley Skating Club (roller and ice), also paid a visit as did a party of roller skaters from Southend. It certainly seems as though ice is getting under the skin!

The Arosa Room has catered for a number of functions, the most colourful of which was the selection of Queen for Twickenham's Fair. The Arosa Rooms were taken over by the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* who acted as hosts with organizing committee and all the local dignitaries of both Richmond and Twickenham were present, including the Mayors and Mayoresses. Heading the list of judges was Miss Elizabeth Allen of TV fame, Alan Miles, Dorothy Holloway, Frederick and May Piffard, who selected Miss Patricia Sullivan of Twickenham to be the Queen for this year's Fair.

Many continental skaters have again visited Richmond this year, amongst them being Gisella Bergmann, Oly Babelotsky, Joan Haanappel, Sjonke Dykstra, Gilberte Naboulet, Lady Stoppelman, Susann Hasler, André Calame, Ariane Hertli, together with Tony Holles from Liverpool, Susan Blount, and Wendy Mills and Anne Reynolds of Nottingham, and Vivien Higson, also from Liverpool, who have availed themselves of "all-the-year-round skating."

The Penguin club paid an organized visit to the Sonja Henie ice show and the great Sonja presented two autographed photographs for winners of a competition.

It is with many regrets that we said *au revoir* to Valda Osborn, British and European champion, who has now entered the professional ranks. Best wishes from everyone at Richmond go with her.

A further visitor with a very keen interest in skating but to no aspirations to skating was Mrs. Sawell who, during the war years when she was evacuated to the district, made numerous friends to whom she was affectionately known as "Auntie." Each summer she makes a periodical visit in the company of friends from Westcliff to have a chat and a cup of tea with her wartime friends.

Arthur Apfel, a former pupil of Arnold Gerschwiler and former British champion, was also over from Johannesburg for the Coronation and availed himself of some intensive dance practice with Joyce Bosley with whom he subsequently passed his inter-silver ice dance test.

Roy Callaway, popular professional at Richmond, is to be congratulated on having passed his gold dance test. Roy, apart from his teaching ability, has that personality which appeals both to adults and children.

The Richmond Curling Club commences its activities once again on Tuesday, September 15th, and arrangements are the same as for previous years with the

session from 6.0 p.m. until 8.30. Hon. secretary Ron Alpe asks those who are interested to get in touch with him at the rink.

Iris Ice Skating Club: Many enjoyable parties have been held during the summer months on the Arosa Rink, but the one to receive the greatest mention is undoubtedly the "Coronation Week Party" which not only took place on the Arosa Rink but also in the Arosa Rooms. A large attendance of members and friends were entertained by a truly memorable series of exhibitions on the rink, and it would be unfair to mention only some of those taking part for they all entered so enthusiastically into the spirit of the time and certainly gave all they had to make the evening a sure success. Valerie Carter opened with a really charming solo followed by a highly polished performance of pair skating by Colonel Jackson and Jean Every. Then came an item "Soldiers of the Queen" performed by Lesley Norfolk in the lead with Shirley Jones, Rosemarie Jones, Roma Neal and Valerie Draght, together with a pair number by Timothy Norfolk and Linda Allen, aged seven and six respectively, all being backed by the "Soldiers"—all eight of them—Joyce Page, Gillian West, Linda Mills, Jane Kingdom, Julia Gudgeon, Sally Hart, Pat Gibbins and Edna Thaley. A great effort by Pat Curle to get so many of her pupils together in one exhibition.

The second half of the show was opened by Doreen Spowart with an amusing "coloured" comedy number, then Cliff and Joan Cheasley gave a pair skating number right on top of their form which is at all times a very high standard indeed. The finale was presented by that accomplished skater Lady Stoppelmann, who added to her reputation at Richmond with a new number. Mrs. Arnold Gerschwiler graciously presented the gifts to the long list of ice performers, supported by Arnold himself. In the lighter vein, Mr. A. V. Hopkins presented certificates and "Furry" gifts to Arnold Gerschwiler and Betty Callaway for the best "supporting role" of the year, referring of course to the instruction given to Claire Bloom and James Mason.

The enjoyment of this particular evening was enhanced by the co-operation so willingly given by members of the Sports-Drome instructional staff and the Richmond Amateur Ice Dance Club.

During the close season many "off the ice" events have taken place and it is interesting to note the close co-operation between rinks and clubs, not only in skating events but purely social functions, one being a Squash Competition between Wembley, Queen's and Richmond. Thanks to Jerry Gaskell and Len Attwood, Wembley won, but through the valuable help of Arnold Richmond managed to be runners-up, and as a finale a small dance was held to celebrate at the Grampians Club. A crowd of Richmond skaters supported a Wembley dance at the Century Hotel and it was rounded off by an impromptu party at Marjorie's flat prior to her departure for Rio. What time she did her packing is a mystery, because she hadn't started when the guests departed at 3 a.m.! Many members of the Richmond Amateur Ice Skating Club supported the Iris club's Coronation Party, and as the RAISC's river cruise was scheduled to take place the following day last-minute arrangements were feverishly made to make the day a success. Both the Iris club, Streatham and Queen's all supported the river trip and without their combined help the day would not have been the success it was. Although the weather was not too good, this was apparently only a minor detail as quite a large number took part. The Bathing Belle contest was a highlight of the day and was held on board, the judges being Charles Cooper, Basil Taylor and Monty Tabor, who were dressed as King Farouk, Groucho Marx and Schmozzle Durante respectively. Armed with plumb bob, tape measure, spirit level and keen eyesight the competition was won—genuinely—by Mrs. Lynn Blake

with Pat Gallacher second and Antoinette (Tony) Leslie third. The other male also-rans put up a very creditable performance owing to the hard work of Connie Turner who improvised their costumes. Dancing on the fore-deck was carried on throughout the day and lunch and tea were served on board, with Dave Harris acting as compere.

Aldwych Speed Club: Racing for the Sports-Drome Trophy, which was classed as the Coronation attraction at the Richmond Ice Rink, was staged before an enthusiastic audience and was composed of relay teams from Southampton, Bournemouth, Birmingham, Nottingham, Paisley, Surrey and the home team—Aldwych.

In Heat 1, Aldwych were drawn against Paisley Rapide and in a superb race lapped their opponents at three laps to go in the third mile, and set up a track record which had not been touched since 1948 of 8 mins. 30 secs., Rapides not finishing the distance.

Heat 2, Birmingham Mohawks drawn against Nottingham were neck and neck until an unfortunate fall by Holwell of Nottingham left them in second place as they could not pick up the distance lost, and Birmingham won in 8 mins. 35.1 secs. against Nottingham's 8 mins. 38.8 secs.

In Heat 3, Bournemouth raced against Southampton and Surrey, and although the race was quite exciting with two or three falls, it definitely proved that Bournemouth were the winners as Southampton and Surrey were disqualified for technical faults throughout the racing.

Included in the programme were quarter mile scratch races and the annual half mile handicap for visiting clubs and these were run off in heats. In the quarter mile finals Knight (Southampton) was the winner, with Monaghan (Bournemouth) second and Gover (Southampton) third.

The half mile handicap was won by Bailey, with Webb (Surrey) second and Ramsay (Aldwych) third.

The greatly awaited final of the "Sports-Drome" Trophy consisted of Aldwych, Birmingham and Nottingham and for two miles their respective supporters cheered their men on voraciously—with Aldwych maintaining about a yard lead on each lap. Excitement grew stronger in the last mile when each team was struggling to gain over their opponents, and Nottingham once again sustained an unlucky fall which put them into third place, with Welham finishing for the Aldwych club—he crossed the line in 8 mins. 36.2 secs. in front of Birmingham and the gallant Nottingham team. The Aldwych team consisted of Welham, Blackman, Cossick and Johnson, and the trophy and medals for the other races were presented by Mrs. H. Rule, wife of the managing director of the Sports-Drome, and the evening finished with the Aldwych Supporters' entertaining the visitors to a social in the Arosa Room.

THE THINGS WE'RE ASKED

"Hello, is that the Richmond Ice Rink?"

"Hello, is that . . ."

"Yes, this is Richmond Ice Rink."

"Hello! Oh—er—I wonder if I could bring my pet budgerigar with me to the ice rink? Do you mind—I can't leave it at home while I skate."

"Oh! yes madam, it will be quite all right—the lady in the cloakroom will mind it for you."

"Oh, thank you very much—goodbye!"

SOUTHAMPTON

The local rink's "open all summer" policy has proved extremely popular and good attendances, especially at week-ends, have indicated public approval.

Towards the end of May the NSA held a further series of medal tests and an excellent percentage of successes was recorded. Congratulations to Carole Rolls on obtaining inter-silver free skating, and to Diana Main for her inter-silver dance.

The main event in June was, of course, the Coronation Day Gala. A large crowd of skaters and spectators enjoyed over four hours of skating, dancing, exhibitions, fancy dress parade, etc. Dale Humphries, Keith Kelly, Carole Pound and Sheila Whiffen delighted everyone with solo numbers—Carole and Sheila later combined for a pair skating exhibition.

Local talent was given a chance to shine on August Bank Holiday evening. Despite counter-attractions elsewhere, good weather, etc. a very satisfactory crowd saw an enjoyable programme of solo and pair skating. The solo numbers came first—Diane Amos, Stephanie Goulding, Edna Lane and Brenda Martin drew well merited applause for their poise, grace and ability. Later in the evening we saw two sets of ice dancing exhibitions. Ian Hussey and Rosemary Davis, both nine-year old skaters, plus David Dransfield and Diana Main, demonstrated what is surely one of the world's most graceful arts—dancing on ice. Pre-war Southampton favourites, Trevor and Norah Mason, gave an enjoyable pair skating number—plenty of good timing and technical ability. Final item was by popular local instructor, Frank Clegg, and one of his pupils, 15-year-old Pauline Curtis. This was the high-spot of the evening, and thoroughly deserved its enthusiastic reception by the crowd. Frank's outstanding ability has certainly developed the latent talent in several of his pupils.

September sees the departure of Thelma King, instructress at Southampton since the rink's rebuilding. Everyone regrets this loss—Thelma's popularity has done a lot to set things rolling smoothly in the past eighteen months—but as the former Bournemouth skater is leaving to get married and to settle in Canada she goes with every good wish for the future from all connected with skating at the sea-port arena.

Thelma's successor is Audrey Bailey from London. Audrey is taking her first instructional post, and comes with silver dance and inter-gold qualifications. Before Thelma leaves the Old Country she has donated a silver trophy to be competed for annually by local skaters. This trophy will be for free skating and is confined to competitors who have not previously won any award. Encouragement for all the keen figure skaters.

Further seating arrangements have been announced by the rink management—more rows of seats are being added to the existing balcony accommodation, and the two new end balconies are expected to be erected before the winter season. This will be very welcome by the many spectators who were excluded from some of the past season's top events.

It is hoped that ice hockey will resume in October—and that the Vikings will be represented by the majority of last year's Championship side.

Speed skating has undoubtedly benefited by the constant practice, and the newcomers have shown grand form in the several summer local league events that have been staged. There is going to be a hard battle for first team places this season. Young stars of the future Terry Bailey, Jim Noice and Alec Wilson are already making their presence felt, and not far behind them are Jim Hirst, Bob Kendall, Barry Beavis, Mike Lewin, Len Barter and Peter Owen. Plenty of good talent in the fifteen to seventeen-year-old group promises a strong future for the Saints, once proud national league champions.

Southampton skaters will be pleased to learn that there is every possibility that Tony Goater will be back on the ice in the not too distant future. Tony has been in hospital for over six months, but is making progress.

L.C.G.



between May 10th and July 10th:—

ICE FIGURE (International Style)

Preliminary	Club or Town	Where held
Miss J. E. Stait ..	Birmingham ..	Birmingham
Miss B. Dove ..	Sunderland ..	Durham
Miss L. Aldridge ..	London ..	Queens
Miss B. Brading ..	Queens IDC ..	"
J. Curran ..	London ..	"
Miss J. M. DuBedat ..	" ..	"
Miss N. Delaney ..	" ..	"
Miss A. Fabian ..	" ..	"
Miss S. Fabian ..	" ..	"
Miss A. Forrester ..	" ..	"
A. J. Gardiner ..	" ..	"
G. D. Groves ..	" ..	"
Miss V. Hunt ..	" ..	"
Master D. James ..	" ..	"
Miss J. Johnston ..	" ..	"
A. Leach ..	" ..	"
R. C. Tonkin ..	" ..	"
E. R. Wigley ..	" ..	"
Miss J. Quass ..	" ..	"
Miss P. L. K. Curtis ..	Southampton ..	Southampton
Miss L. Dane ..	" ..	"
R. F. Guard ..	" ..	"
Miss O. Hindmarsh ..	" ..	"
Miss A. P. Langford ..	" ..	"
Miss E. Lane ..	" ..	"
Miss D. E. Leavey ..	" ..	"
Miss B. Martin ..	" ..	"
Mrs. D. Nicol ..	" ..	"
Miss T. I. Smith ..	" ..	"
C. J. A. Sturgeon ..	" ..	"
Miss G. Benjamin ..	Streatham IFSC ..	Streatham
Miss Y. Meier ..	Switzerland ..	"
Miss B. H. Sherrard ..	London ..	"
W. Wade ..	Streatham IFSC ..	"

Third Class Figures

L. Hansom ..	Durham ..	Durham
Miss J. M. Harrison ..	London ..	Queens
Miss B. McLoughlin ..	Queens IFSC ..	"
Miss G. Leadbeater ..	Molesey ..	Richmond

Third Class Free Skating

Miss P. M. Hughes ..	Birmingham ..	Birmingham
Miss P. L. Curtis ..	Southampton ..	Southampton
Miss O. Hindmarsh ..	" ..	"
Miss A. P. Langford ..	" ..	"
Miss D. E. Leavey ..	" ..	"
Miss T. I. Smith ..	" ..	"
Miss N. Delauney ..	London ..	Queens
Miss A. Fabian ..	" ..	"
Miss S. Fabian ..	" ..	"
S. Foulkes ..	" ..	"
Miss E. A. Frankish ..	" ..	"
Miss J. Fraser ..	" ..	"
Miss A. Forrester ..	" ..	"
Miss J. M. Harrison ..	" ..	"
Miss J. B. Henry ..	" ..	"
Master D. James ..	" ..	"
Miss J. Johnston ..	" ..	"
Miss A. Kadwill ..	" ..	"
Miss R. Newman ..	" ..	"
Miss R. C. Tomkin ..	" ..	"
Miss G. Benjamin ..	Streatham IFSC ..	Streatham

Third Class Figures and Free Skating

Miss R. Noden ..	Liverpool SC ..	Liverpool
Miss D. G. Chilton ..	Ilford ..	Queens
G. D. Groves ..	London ..	"
Miss Y. Meier ..	Switzerland ..	Streatham

Intermediate Second Class Figures

Miss J. P. Coates ..	Liverpool SC ..	Liverpool
Miss L. E. Norfolk ..	Penguin SC ..	Richmond

Intermediate Second Class Free Skating

Miss A. Jukes ..	Birmingham ..	Birmingham
Miss N. Poynton ..	" ..	"
Miss A. Harris ..	Bournemouth ..	Bournemouth
	FSDC ..	Queens
Miss Y. LeBlanc ..	London ..	"
D. M. McDonald ..	" ..	"
Miss S. E. Mosely ..	" ..	"
Miss A. M. Weston ..	" ..	"
Miss L. Staples ..	Harrow ..	Richmond
Miss C. Rolls ..	Southampton ..	Southampton

Intermediate Second Class Figures and Free Skating

Miss I. Bailey ..	Liverpool SC ..	Liverpool
Miss H. M. Landes ..	Manchester SC ..	Manchester
Miss J. F. Libbert ..	" ..	Richmond
Miss M. Lister ..	Scottish FSC ..	Richmond
Mrs. Miquel ..	Richmond AISC ..	Streatham
Miss A. Fischer ..	London ..	"
Miss G. Fischer ..	" ..	"
Miss Y. Meier ..	Switzerland ..	"

Second Class Figures

Miss J. Dimmock ..	Birmingham IDC ..	Birmingham
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Second Class Figures and Free Skating

Miss C. A. Dallow ..	Willenhall ..	Birmingham
Miss A. Taylor ..	Birmingham ..	"
Miss J. S. Mann ..	Hayes ..	Richmond
Miss T. Perry ..	Queens IFSC ..	Queens
Miss A. M. Angel ..	" ..	"
Miss F. Negro ..	Italy ..	Streatham

Intermediate First Class Figures and Free Skating

Miss A. Bailey ..	New Malden ..	Streatham
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First Class

Miss E. N. Skevington ..	Bournemouth ..	Bournemouth
	FSDC ..	Bournemouth
Miss B. M. Hodgson ..	Liverpool SC ..	Liverpool

PAIR SKATING

Third Class

Miss M. Myatt ..	Birmingham SC ..	Birmingham
R. G. Christman ..	" ..	"
Miss J. M. Markham ..	Durham ISC ..	Durham
H. Bray ..	" ..	"
Miss R. Carr ..	Liverpool SC ..	Liverpool
R. W. Resslich ..	" ..	"
Miss P. A. Carter ..	Manchester SC ..	Manchester
J. Ryder ..	" ..	"
Miss D. Nield ..	" ..	"
V. L. Spencer ..	" ..	"
Miss J. Bates ..	Nottingham ..	Nottingham
Miss M. Smith ..	Bournemouth ..	"
	FSDC ..	Bournemouth

Second Class

Miss V. Thomson ..	Birmingham ..	Birmingham
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First Class

Miss A. M. Smith ..	Durham ISC ..	Durham
J. R. Dixon ..	" ..	"

INSTRUCTOR'S TEST

Third Class

Miss B. Layton .. Brighton .. Brighton

ICE DANCE

Preliminary

Miss J. Newman .. London .. Queens
Miss S. Morgan .. Woodford .. Queens
Miss B. Dove .. Sunderland .. Durham
Miss M. Brown .. Manchester IDC .. Manchester
Miss A. Heaton .. Manchester ..
Miss A. L. Taylor .. Manchester IDC ..
Miss D. L. Taylor
A. Tracey
Mrs. I. Chambers .. Nottingham .. Nottingham
Miss Z. Metcalf
Miss K. Pownall
Miss B. Brading .. Queens IDC .. Queens
Miss A. Forrester .. Ruislip ..
Miss J. B. Henry .. London ..
M. Salter .. Queens IDC ..
E. G. Slawson .. Queens IDC ..
Miss J. F. Tyler .. London ..
A. Apfel .. South Africa .. Richmond
Miss M. C. Duncan
Miss P. J. Eastland .. Wembley IDFC ..
Miss J. A. Boella .. Southampton .. Southampton
Miss R. B. Davis
Miss P. A. Davis
Miss V. Dear
Miss M. Fisk
Miss E. Ford
Miss S. A. Goulding
S. Gledhill
Miss E. Hampton
Miss J. Harris
Miss P. Harris
Miss S. Hopper
Miss A. Knowles
Miss P. Leatherdale
Miss A. Lohse
Miss B. Lowman
Miss B. Martin
Miss R. D. Moody
Miss A. Moss
Miss J. Simmonds
Miss J. M. Taylor
Miss P. Thew
Miss E. M. Wills
A. Donovan .. Croydon .. Streatham
Mrs. E. A. Berry .. Civil Service ISA ..
Miss H. Preston .. London ..
W. Wade .. Streatham IDC ..

Third Class

Miss B. Chadwick .. Birmingham .. Birmingham
Miss D. S. Bradburn .. Manchester IDC .. Manchester
J. Shelmerdine .. Ashton ..
A. Tracey .. Manchester IDC ..
W. O. Newbery .. Nottingham .. Nottingham
Miss J. Pettifer .. Nottingham ..
Master J. Phillips .. Nottingham ..
Master M. Phillips
Miss A. J. Taylor .. Nottingham ..
Miss B. Brading .. Queens IDC .. Queens
Miss A. Forrester .. Harrow ..
Miss J. A. Tonkin .. London ..
A. Apfel .. South Africa .. Richmond
Miss J. Clover .. Penguin SC ..
Miss P. J. Eastland .. Wembley IDFC ..
Master A. Barron .. Southampton .. Southampton
R. G. Bunce

W. Glasspool .. Southampton .. Southampton
Miss S. Hatcher
Miss L. Heaton
Miss M. McKellar
Master J. W. Piper
Miss C. Rolls
Miss T. Smith
Miss D. Webb
Miss P. Willscher
W. Wade .. Streatham IFSC .. Streatham
Mrs. E. A. Berry .. Civil Service ISA ..
A. Donovan .. Croydon ..

Intermediate Second Class

R. Mason .. Birmingham IDC .. Birmingham
Miss N. Poynton .. Birmingham ..
Miss S. Harrison .. Durham ISC .. Durham
Master A. Green .. Cheshire .. Manchester
Miss K. B. Johnstone .. Manchester IDC ..
J. Ryder
D. W. Gingell .. Nottingham .. Nottingham
Miss A. J. Winter .. Nottingham ID ..
Mrs. H. Dean .. London .. Queens
R. F. Dean
Miss E. Giraud .. France ..
A. Howard .. Wembley ..
Miss P. B. Layfield .. London ..
Miss Y. LeBlanc
Miss C. Turner
Mrs. D. M. Main .. Southampton .. Southampton
P. Morris .. Streatham IDC .. Streatham
A. Apfel .. South Africa .. Richmond

Second Class

A. L. Jeffries .. Birmingham .. Birmingham
Miss J. Wilding .. Durham ISC .. Durham
Miss M. Leeming .. Liverpool SC .. Liverpool
Miss R. Noden
Miss B. J. Thompson
F. L. Williams
Miss J. Alsop .. London .. Richmond
Mrs. I. Kondziolka .. Richmond AISC ..
R. A. Lee .. Richmond ..
Miss L. E. Norfolk .. Penguin SC ..
G. H. Roberts .. Civil Service ISA ..

First Class

R. Gallaway .. London .. Richmond
P. Thomas .. Streatham IDC .. Queens

ICE SPEED

First Class

A. Ramsay, Jnr. .. Aldwych SC .. Richmond

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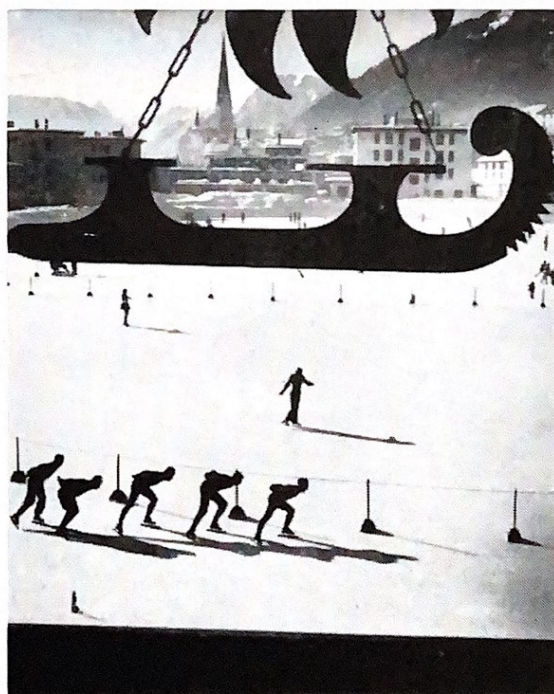
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